



### A weekly question/answer column

## What's Going On With My Roses?

*Bill Varga\* answers:*

Because of the extra wet spring, roses have been growing large blooms and a lot of vegetative growth. They also have more aphids, thrips, fungus, and flower-bud problems than usual.

There is evidence of sunburn on blossoms that have become accustomed to cool, overcast skies. When the sun came out, the temperature went from cool to hot. There was no time for the flowers to “harden off,” therefore, sunburn. Here are some tips to help out your roses:

- To control powdery mildew, rust and black spot fungus diseases on your roses, use a fungicide. Check with your local plant nursery to see what they have available. There are some products that also contain insecticide. Systemic insecticides can provide good control.
- Roses are heavy feeders and require fertilization on a regular basis to maintain good vigor.
- Don't fertilize after the first of September to allow roses to harden off for the winter.

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